

**WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:**

1. A data processing apparatus, comprising:

an image reader for reading an original;

a receiver capable of receiving an external job transmitted from an outside;

a transmitter capable of transmitting image data of the original read by said image reader as a scanning job to an outside;

a print device for printing data of the external job received by said receiver;

one or a plurality of compressing/expanding devices for compressing the image data of the scanning job or the data of the external job and expanding the compressed data;

an operation device for instructing an activation of the scanning job in accordance with an operation of a user; and

a controller that discriminates whether an activation instruction of the scanning job is made by said operation device or from an outside in cases where a request for processing the image data of the scanning job by said one or a plurality of compressing/expanding devices is made when the data of the external job is being compressed or expanded by said one or a plurality of compressing/expanding devices, and controls execution of the external job and the scanning job by said one or a plurality of compressing/expanding devices depending on the discrimination result.

2. The data processing apparatus as recited in claim 1, wherein said controller makes said one or plurality of compressing/expanding devices execute processing of the external job and that of the scanning job in parallel when it is discriminated that the activation instruction of the scanning job is made by said operation device.

3. The data processing apparatus as recited in claim 2, wherein said controller makes said one or plurality of compressing/expanding devices execute the processing of the external job and that of the scanning job in parallel by switching the processing of the external job and that of the scanning job in turn.

4. The data processing apparatus as recited in claim 2, wherein said controller assigns at least one of said plurality of compressing/expanding devices to the processing of the external job and that of the scanning job, respectively, to thereby execute these processing in parallel.

5. The data processing apparatus as recited in claim 1, wherein said controller makes said one or plurality of compressing/expanding devices execute the processing of the scanning job after a completion of the processing of the external

job when it is discriminated that the activation instruction of the scanning job is made from an outside.

6. A data processing method, comprising the steps of:  
reading an original by an image reader;  
receiving an external job transmitted from an outside;  
transmitting image data of the original read by the image reader to an outside as a scanning job;  
printing received data of the external job; and  
discriminating whether an activation instruction of the scanning job is made by an operation device of its apparatus or from an outside when a request for processing data of the scanning job by one or a plurality of compressing/expanding devices when the data of the external job is currently being compressed or expanded by one or a plurality of compressing/expanding devices, and controls the execution of the external job and that of the scanning job by one or plurality of compressing/expanding devices depending on the discrimination result.

7. The data processing method as recited in claim 6, wherein processing of the external job and that of the scanning job by the one or a plurality of compressing/expanding devices are executed in parallel when it is discriminated that the activation instruction of the scanning job is made by the operation device of its apparatus.

8. The data processing method as recited in claim 7, wherein the processing of the external job and that of the scanning job by the one or a plurality of compressing/expanding devices are executed in parallel by switching these processing in turn when it is discriminated that the activation instruction of the scanning job is made by the operation device of its apparatus.

9. The data processing method as recited in claim 7, wherein the processing of the external job and that of the scanning job are executed in parallel by assigning at least one of plurality of compressing/expanding devices to the processing of the external job and that of the scanning job, respectively.

10. The data processing method as recited in claim 6, wherein the processing of the scanning job is executed after the completion of the processing of the external job when it is discriminated that the activation instruction of the scanning job is made from an outside.

11. A data processing apparatus, comprising:  
an image reader for reading an original;  
a receiver capable of receiving an external job transmitted from an outside;  
a transmitter capable of transmitting an image data of the original read by said image reader as a scanning job to an outside;

a compressing/expanding device for compressing data and expanding the compressed data;

an operation device for instructing an activation of the scanning job in accordance with an operation of a user; and

a controller that discriminates whether the activation instruction of the scanning job is made by said operation device or from an outside in cases where a request for processing the image data of the scanning job by said compressing/expanding device is made when data of the external job is currently being compressed or expanded by said compressing/expanding device, and controls execution of the external job and that of the scanning job by said compressing/expanding device depending on the discrimination result.

12. The data processing apparatus as recited in claim 11, wherein said controller makes said compressing/expanding device execute the processing of the external job and that of the scanning job in parallel in case where it is discriminated that the activation instruction of the scanning job is made by said operation device.

13. The data processing apparatus as recited in claim 12, wherein said controller makes said compressing/expanding device execute the processing of the external job and that of the scanning job in parallel by switching the processing of the external job and that of the scanning job in turn.

14. The data processing apparatus as recited in claim 12, wherein said compressing/expanding device includes a plurality of compressors/expanders, and wherein said controller assigns at least one of said plurality of compressors/expanders to the processing of the external job and that of the scanning job, respectively, to thereby execute these processing in parallel.

15. The data processing apparatus as recited in claim 11, wherein said controller makes said compressing/expanding device execute the processing of the scanning job after a completion of the processing of the external job when it is discriminated that the activation instruction of the scanning job is made from an outside.

16. The data processing apparatus as recited in claim 11, further comprising:

a print device for printing the data of the external job received by said receiver.